



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Washington, D.C. 20230

AUG 27 2008

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
President of the Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a draft bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to authorize expenditure of funds for certain travel-related expenses of non-federal employees attending programs regarding intellectual property law and the effectiveness of intellectual property protection.

A recent decision of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice interpreting 31 U.S.C. § 1345 casts serious doubt on whether the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) may fund the travel-related expenses of non-federal participants in the USPTO's Global Intellectual Property Academy training and USPTO's international intellectual property seminars. The bill would remove any doubt about whether 31 U.S.C. § 1345 applies to USPTO programs.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this draft bill and that its enactment would be consistent with the program of the President. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Nathaniel F. Wienecke, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at 482-3663.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Lily Fu Claffee

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-7010

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-7020

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member, Committee on the  
Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6502

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Republican Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6537

The Honorable John Conyers  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6216

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6216

The Honorable Howard Berman  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Courts,  
the Internet, and Intellectual Property  
Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6216

The Honorable Howard Coble  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Courts,  
the Internet, and Intellectual Property  
Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6216